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forty miles west of the southwest corner of Missouri. Mr. Gannett represents Iowa as admitted in 1845, with the meridian of $17^{\circ} 30'$ west from Washington as its western and a parallel passing through the mouth of the Mankato River as its northern boundary. The act of 1845 was conditioned upon its acceptance by the people of the territory and, as this was refused, it never took effect. The state was not admitted until 1846, when it entered the Union with its present boundaries. Attention has been chiefly directed to the diagrams, since they appeal to the eye and on that account are likely to make the stronger impression. Except for the errors noted, the text is in the main accurate.

FRANK HEYWOOD HODDER.

The True Thomas Jefferson. By WILLIAM ELLEROY CURTIS.
(Philadelphia : J. B. Lippincott Co. 1901. Pp. 395.)

THE present volume, being the fourth in the Lippincott series of the "true" lives of famous Americans, is the most ambitious yet published, exceeding by almost one-third the bulk of any of the earlier volumes. Were Mr. Curtis not already well known, it would be easy to conclude from a very cursory examination of his book that he is not a literary man, for his work partakes far more of the scrap-book quality than of the biography, being put together, rather than written, without the slightest apparent sequence, the result bearing a closer resemblance to a crazy-work quilt than to any piece of intentional weaving. Equally evident is it that the author has no general knowledge of history to qualify him for such work, for the book teems with errors and misstatements, some of them being of the most extraordinary nature. What can be said, for instance, of assertions such as that "William and Mary is the oldest college in America, although Harvard graduated the first class" (p. 65), when the veriest tyro should know that Harvard had fifty years start of its southern prototype; that Jefferson was "not in favour of emancipation unless the slaves could be *extirpated*" (p. 83), which is Mr. Curtis's version of Jefferson's wish to see the negroes freed and *colonized*; that Jefferson's slaves concealed "their master's plate when the British visited Monticello in 1814" (p. 95); that "Governor Fauquier introduced French novels, classical music, card playing, and many new vices into the colony" (p. 69); that the election of Adams to the presidency was due directly to the influence of Washington (pp. 273-275); or that the classical names invented by Jefferson, in the ordinance of 1784, for the northwestern states were "for the states to be carved out of the Louisiana territory" (p. 184)? Such perversions are bad enough, but Mr. Curtis again and again, with apparent deliberation, exactly reverses records so clear that it seems impossible he can have read the very documents from which he quotes. Thus, in the case of the criminal law of Virginia in the revision of 1779, the only means by which we have knowledge of Jefferson's share is an apology he drew up concerning the principle of *lex talionis* which it embodied, yet from this apology Mr. Curtis is led to state that the principle of the *lex talionis* was abandoned

by the revisers at Jefferson's "importunities, and no sheriff has ever since been compelled to pry out an eye or bite off a nose." At one place (p. 83) the author would have us believe that Jefferson inserted in the Declaration of Independence a clause favoring freedom to the slaves, which at another place (p. 135) becomes "a paragraph denouncing slavery," the reference in each case being, of course, to the paragraph in opposition to the slave trade. So in explanation of the Jefferson letter to Mazzei, written in 1796, it is stated that Mazzei was at that time "in Europe attempting to negotiate a loan for the United States with a petty prince of Hungary." Such are a few of many examples of the author's ignorance of general history; and as a result the whole book is written on the slap-dash, hearsay order, save where the scissors and the glue pot made writing unnecessary.

At the same time, it would be unfair to Mr. Curtis, full as his book is of ignorance and error, not to acknowledge that he has made an interesting volume, and one that can be read with very distinct pleasure. There can be no question that the author has industriously and honestly toiled, and he has brought together a great mass of material out of which a most delightful volume might have been written, and this but makes the regret the keener that Mr. Curtis had not the mental equipment and education to use it properly.

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

Writings of James Madison, comprising his Public Papers and his Private Correspondence, including numerous Letters and Documents now for the first time printed. Edited by GAILLARD HUNT. Vol. I., 1769-1783; Vol. II., 1783-1787. (New York and London : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1900, 1901. Pp. xl, 484; xvii, 412.)

IN 1837 the Federal government bought of Mrs. Madison a set of manuscripts, in duplicate, comprising "the Debates of the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, prepared by Mr. Madison, together with the Debates taken by him in the Congress of the Confederation in 1782, 1783, and 1787, and selections made by him, and prepared under his eye, from his letters, narrating the proceedings of that body during the periods of his service in it." These were printed in 1840 as the *Papers of James Madison*, edited by Henry D. Gilpin. In 1848 the government purchased from Mrs. Madison most of the remaining manuscripts of her husband. Four volumes, made up chiefly from the additional manuscripts thus purchased, were printed in 1865 under the title *Letters and other Writings of James Madison*. The two printed collections supplement each other, and students interested in Madison's career have always been obliged, with considerable inconvenience, to turn perpetually from one to the other. Accordingly, we must all be deeply grateful to Mr. Hunt for undertaking the publication of a series in which Madison's letters and writings are combined in a single chronological order. The volumes are handsomely made, in style uni-